




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

March 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten
Branch Chief, FSB 

SUBJECT: 2010 Sea Scallop Fishing Year

This memo summarizes the sea scallop management measures and observer set-aside compensation rate for the 2010 sea scallop fishing year. The February 24, 2010 Small Entity Compliance Guide and February 26, 2010 compensation rate calculation documents from the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) are attached and contain more detailed information.

The implementation of Framework 21 (FW21) to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan, if approved, has been delayed. As a result the scallop fishery is operating under measures that were in place in 2009. For information on FW19 measures, please refer to NEFOP Memo 09-004 on the Fisheries Sampling Branch website:

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fishsamp/fsb/>. If approved, FW21 measures will likely go into effect in July 2010.

The Elephant Trunk Access Area (ETAA) opened on March 1, 2010 with 3 trips per vessel allocated to the Full-Time Limited Access (FTLA) scallop vessels and 1,964 trips allocated to the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) scallop vessel fleet. The seasonal closure of the ETAA remains in effect from September 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010. FW21 proposes to reduce the ETAA trips to 2 per FTLA vessel and 1,377 trips for the LAGC fleet. The ETAA does **NOT** have a yellowtail flounder total allowable catch (TAC); therefore, iPAQ SAP data are **NOT** required for this area. All scallop access area protocols should be followed.

The Delmarva Access Area (DMVAA) opened on March 1, 2010 with 1 trip per vessel allocated to the FTLA scallop vessels and 728 trips allocated to the LAGC scallop vessels. The DMVAA does **NOT** have a yellowtail flounder TAC; therefore, iPAQ SAP data are **NOT** required for this area. All scallop access area protocols should be followed. FW21 includes a seasonal closure of the DMVAA from September 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010.



FW21 proposes to open the Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLCA) with 1 trip per vessel allocated to the FTLA scallop vessels and 714 trips allocated to the LAGC scallop vessels. The NLCA **DOES** have a yellowtail flounder TAC and iPAQ SAP data **ARE** required for this area.

The SAP data required for these trips are round weights for kept and discarded yellowtail flounder and dressed weights for kept scallops on each observed haul. All scallop access area protocols should be followed.

Open area days-at-sea (DAS) allocations effective March 1, 2010, are 42 DAS per vessel FTLA vessel. The total DAS allocated is approximately 14,200 DAS. FW21 proposes to reduce DAS to 38 per vessel for FTLA vessels. Total DAS allocated under FW21 is approximately 13,500 DAS.

Observed trips in the ETAA, DMVAA, and NLCA for all scallop vessels are covered by the Industry Funded Scallop Program. Please refer to the information listed below for proper documentation of codes on the Vessel & Trip Log and OBSCON reporting:

Program Code – Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLCA) = 201

Program Code – Elephant Trunk Access Area (ETAA) = 206

Program Code – Delmarva Access Area (DMVAA) = 207

Fleet I.D. Code (ContArea on iPAQ) - vessels fishing Limited Access = 046

Fleet I.D. Code (ContArea on iPAQ) - vessels fishing General Category = 047

Vendor I.D. Code – A.I.S. Industry Funded Trip = 02

Vendor I.D. Code – E.W.T.S. Industry Funded Trip = 04

The ETAA, DMVAA, and NLCA are located below the 41° 9.0' N. latitude line and vessels fishing in these areas are required to use turtle chain mats on their dredges during the time period of May 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010 (please note the September 1 through October 31 closure of the ETAA and proposed for DMVAA).

For more information on sampling in the scallop fishery, refer to pages 16-18 and 70-73 in the NEFOP Biological Sampling Manual and pages 108-153 in the NEFOP Fisheries Observer Program Manual.



The overall annual observer coverage rates for Fishing Year 2010 will be approximately: 10% for open area, 10% for the ETAA, and 13% for the DMVAA. The coverage rate for the NLCA has yet to be determined. Interim coverage rates for the Industry Funded Scallop Program for March 2010 have been determined by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and NERO as:

		Limited Access	General Category
Northeast, Open Area	Dredge	5%	na
Mid-Atlantic, Open Area	Dredge	5%	na
Mid-Atlantic, Open Area	Trawl	20%	na
Delmarva Access Area	Dredge	3%	4%
Delmarva Access Area	Trawl	20%	6%
Elephant Trunk Access Area	Dredge	3%	3%
Elephant Trunk Access Area	Trawl	20%	5%

These coverage rates may be revised when the 2010 standardized bycatch reporting methodology (SBRM) recommended coverage levels are finalized. Currently, the 2010 SBRM is under review by NMFS and the Councils. Coverage levels for the scallop fishery, including seasonal distribution of coverage, may be revised after the 2010 SBRM is finalized.

If you have additional questions, please contact either Erin Kupcha at (508) 495-2031 office, (508) 367-8256 mobile or Erin.Kupcha@noaa.gov or Corrin Flora at (508) 495-2188 office, (508) 560-3550 mobile or Corrin.Flora@noaa.gov.

Thank you.



Attachments:

Small Entity Compliance Guide published on February 24, 2010

Observer Set-Aside Compensation Rate (Compensation Rate) Calculation Summary

The regulation information contained in this memo was summarized from the Small Entity Compliance Guide published on February 24, 2010 and should not be used as a substitute for the actual regulations.

